

## For Homeowners

Your property tax (a) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
plus  
50 % of water bill (b) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
= (c) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total annual income (d) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes all income exempt from state income tax,  
i.e., Social Security, state municipal pensions)

(times) x .10  
= (e) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To calculate total possible credit (f):

Line (c) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(minus) Line (e) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
= (f) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## For Renters

Your annual rent (a) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(times) x .25  
= (b) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total annual income (c) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(times) x .10  
= (d) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To calculate total possible credit (e):  
Line (b) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(minus) Line (d) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
= (e) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE: This is NOT an official tax document)

For more information about the  
Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

Contact:

Seekonk Human Services  
540 Arcade Avenue  
Seekonk, MA 02771  
508-336-8772

or

The Massachusetts  
Department of Revenue  
Customer Service Bureau  
800-392-6089 toll free

or

Department of Revenue  
website  
[www.mass.gov/dor](http://www.mass.gov/dor)

More state government  
information is available  
by visiting  
[www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)

# THE CIRCUIT BREAKER



## Massachusetts Property Tax Relief for Senior Citizens

Updated for 2021 Tax Year  
By:  
Seekonk Human Services

## **What is the Circuit Breaker?**

It's called the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit because its "triggered," like an electrical circuit breaker, when property tax payments exceed 10 percent of a senior citizen's annual income.

Those who qualify are still required to pay property taxes to their local communities. Seniors will receive a dollar credit on their Massachusetts tax return for every dollar that the total of their property tax, water and sewer bills exceed 10 percent of their income.

Senior citizens who rent their homes can also take advantage of the same dollar-for dollar-credit if 25 percent of their annual rent exceeds 10 percent of their annual income.

## **Is there a special application?**

To receive the credit, you must file Schedule CB with a 2021 Massachusetts state income tax return by April 15, 2022 even if you don't owe any income tax.

You may also be eligible for a refundable tax credit for 2018, 2019, and 2020, even if you did not file Massachusetts state income tax forms. The deadline for filing for the 2018 tax year is April 15, 2022.

## **Who is eligible?**

- ❖ Must be a Massachusetts resident age 65 or older by the end of the tax year for which you are filing
- ❖ Must own or rent residential property in Massachusetts and occupy it as your primary residence
- ❖ For 2021 tax year, must have an annual income of \$62,000 or less for a single filer, \$78,000 or less for a head of household, or \$93,000 or less for joint filers

## **Who is ineligible?**

- ❖ Married persons who do not file jointly for this credit
- ❖ Those who are a dependent of another tax filer
- ❖ Those who receive federal or state rent subsidy directly, or those who live in a property tax exempt facility
- ❖ For 2021 tax year, those whose property is assessed at a value of \$884,000 or less.

## **How much is the credit?**

For 2021, the credit is capped at **\$1,170**. The worksheet on the next page is not an official tax document, but can give you a rough idea of what your credit might be.

## **Previous year provisions**

### **Tax year 2018**

#### *Annual income limit*

Single	\$58,000
Head of household	\$72,000
Married, filing jointly	\$86,000

#### *Assessed valuation of home*

No greater than	\$747,000
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*Maximum credit* \$1100

### **Tax year 2019**

#### *Annual income limit*

Single	\$60,000
Head of household	\$75,000
Married, filing jointly	\$90,000

#### *Assessed valuation of home*

No greater than	\$808,000
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*Maximum credit* \$1130

### **Tax year 2020**

#### *Annual income limit*

Single	\$61,000
Head of household	\$76,000
Married, filing jointly	\$92,000

#### *Assessed valuation of home*

No greater than	\$848,000
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*Maximum credit* \$1150